

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P 310430Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4369

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS PRIORITY

COMUSSAG NKP THAILAND PRIORITY

CINCPAC HONOLULU PRIORITY

COMIPAC HONOLULU PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 3798

EXDIS MIL ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS VS

SUBJECT: NEAR-TERM MILITARY PROSPECTS IN MR 3

FOLLOWING TEL RECEIVED FROM BIEN HOA MARCH 29, SENT ACTION SAIGON H/W  
REPEATED TO YOU. QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L BIEN HOA 235

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, VS

SUBJ: NEAR-TERM MILITARY PROSPECTS IN MR3

1. THIS MESSAGE OFFERS SOME VIEWS ON POSSIBLE NEAR-TERM  
MILITARY DEVELOPEMENTS IN MR3 AND OBSERVATIONS BY THE MR3  
COMMANDER, LTG TOAN, WHEN WE MET PRIVATELY THE MORNING OF MARCH  
29.

2. THE EXTENDED PERIOD OF RELATIVELY LIGHT MILITARY ACTIVITY  
AND GENERAL ABSENCE OF NVA/VC PRESSURE EXCEPT IN THE ISOLATED  
CASE OF CHON THANH IS UNDOUBTEDLY EXPLAINED BY NVA/VC TROOPS  
ADJUSTMENTS AND PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT HIGH POINT. INTELLIGENCE  
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INDICATORS DO NOT GIVE ANY CLEAR PICTURE OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH

MAJOR NVA/VC REDEPLOYMENTS MAY BE IN PROGRESS, OR WHERE OR WHEN THE NEXT ATTACKS MAY OCCUR. RADIO SILENCE BY MAJOR NVA UNITS THROUGHOUT MR3 DURING THE LAST 2 DAYS COULD PORTEND NEAR-TERM ATTACKS. THREE AREAS APPEAR TO BE LIKELY TARGETS WHICH THE NVA/VC WOULD WANT TO DEVELOP--THE BIEN HOA/LONG KHANH BORDER EAST OF BIEN HOA, THE AREA NORTH OF BIEN HOA UP TO PHU GIAO IN NORTHEASTERN BINH DUONG PROVINCE, AND WESTERN HAU NGHIA/WESTERN LONG AN PROVINCES WEST OF THE VAM CO DONG RIVER WHICH IS GENERALLY UNDEFENDED BY MR3 FORCES.

3. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE 141ST REGT OF THE 7TH NVA DIV, WHICH OVERRAN DINH QUAN ON ROUTE 20 IN LONG KHANH WAS REDEPLOYED AGAINST LAM DONG WHICH HAS NOW BEEN TAKEN OVER BY THE COMMUNISTS. SOME ELEMENTS OF THE 209TH REGT OF THE 7TH NVA DIV WHICH HAD BEEN DEPLOYED FARTHER SOUTH AND WEST ON ROUTE 20 MAY HAVE PARTICIPATED ALSO OR PULLED BACK NORTH INTO WAR ZONE D. THIS WOULD HELP EXPLAIN THE ABSENCE OF FURTHER PRESSURE IN THE RECENT PAST ALONG ROUTE 20 IN THE KIEM TAN AREA OF LONG KHANH PROVINCE, BUT THERE REMAINS CONCERN AT MR3 THAT THE NVA/VC MAY ATTEMPT A SUDDEN THRUST ON THE EASTERN FLANK OF BIEN HOA THROUGH THE CAY GAO AREA TO CUT ROUTE 1 AROUND TRANG BOM (WHICH IS SOME 20 KMS EAST OF BIEN HOA).

4. IN THE TAY NINH AREA, THE REPORTED MOVE OF THE 201ST REGT FROM NORTHWEST OF TAY NINH CITY INTO THE KIEN TUONG AREA OF MR4, IF CONFIRMED, WOULD RELIEVE THE PRESSURE ON TAY NINH CITY BUT ADD TO THE DEVELOPING THREAT TO THE WESTERN SIDE OF SAIGON THROUGH HAU NGHIA AND LONG AN. MR3 HAS NO FORCES WEST OF THE VAM CO DONG RIVER IN WESTERN HAU NGHIA OR WESTERN LONG AN PROVINCES.

5. A THIRD AREA WHICH MR3 OFFICERS ARE WATCHING IS THE NORTHERN AREA OF BIEN HOA UP TO PHU GIAO IN NORTHEASTERN BINH DUONG PROVINCE. WITH GVN DEFENSES THIN IN THIS AREA, AND CONTACT WITH THE NVA 165TH REGT COMPLETELY LOST FOR MANY WEEKS, THE POSSIBILITY OF AN NVA PUSH IN THIS AREA IS ALSO RECOGNIZED.

6. GENERAL TOAN TOLD ME THIS MORNING THAT WITH INTELLIGENCE ON ENEMY LOCATIONS SO POOR, HE REFUSES TO BE DISTRACTED BY "THINGS WHICH MIGHT HAPPEN" AND WILL CONCENTRATE RATHER ON HITTING THE ENEMY HARD WHEN HE SHOWS HIMSELF. HE BELIEVES THAT THIS APPROACH

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HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL AND THAT HE STILL RETAINS ENOUGH MOBILITY TO STICK TO IT. HE SAID HE WILL NOT "CHASE PHANTOMS".

7. HE THEN SPOKE BRIEFLY TO THE VARIOUS AREAS OF POTENTIAL NEAR-TERM ATTACK BY THE NVA/VC. HE DID NOT SEEM VERY WORRIED ABOUT THE IMMEDIATE RISK OF AN ATTACK IN THE AREA NORTH OF BIEN HOA UP TO PHU GIAO. HE IS CONCERNED WITH THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE COMMUNISTS MIGHT MAKE A MOVE SOON IN THE AREA GENERALLY EAST OF BIEN HOA,

STRIKING TOWARD BIEN HOA FROM THE CAY GAO AREA OR SOUTHWARD TO CUT OFF ROUTE 1 AROUND TRANG BOM. HE THOUGHT THE IMMEDIATE THREAT OF AN ATTACK IN THIS AREA PROBABLY DIMINISHED BY THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE 141ST NVA REGT INTO LAM DONG, BUT THOUGHT THE 6TH NVA DIV IN LONG KHANH PROVINCE MIGHT BE USED. THIS DIV INCLUDES THE 274TH AND 33RD NVA REGTS. THE 33RD IS PROBABLY THE FORCE OPERATING ALONG ROUTE 1 IN EASTERN LONG KHANH PROVINCE BUT THE 274TH HAS NOT SHOWN ITSELF IN THE RECENT PAST. TOAN SAID THAT IF THE ENEMY SHOWS HIMSELF IN THE CAY GAO AREA HE WILL BE GIVEN REINFORCEMENTS FROM THE TWO AIRBORNE BRIGADES THAT ARE NOW IN SAIGON.

8. TOAN SAID HE IS NOT SO CONCERNED ABOUT THE THREAT IN WESTERN HAU NGHIA AND WESTERN LONG AN BECAUSE THE TERRAIN WEST OF THE VAM CO DONG RIVER IS VERY OPEN WHICH WOULD PERMIT HIS FORCES TO DEMOLISH THE NVA IF AND WHEN THEY ATTACK IN THAT AREA. HERE TOO, HE SAID, HE WILL HAVE AIRBORNE RESERVES IF THEY ARE NEEDED.

9. I ASKED GENERAL TOAN IF HE IS CONCERNED THAT THE NVA WILL BE ABLE TO BRING BIEN HOA AIR BASE AND LONG BINH BASE WITHIN ARTILLERY RANGE. HIS REPLY WAS THAT IF ARTILLERY COMES WITHIN RANGE OF THESE AREAS, "I WILL PUT THE AIRBORNE IN ON TOP OF THEM".  
PETERS

UNQTE  
MARTIN

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